

SENATE BILL NO. 590

BY SENATOR MCPHERSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2418(F)(2) and to enact R.S. 37:2418(F)(4), relative to  
3 physical therapist assistants; to provide for supervision requirements; and to provide  
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:2418(F)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
7 37:2418(F)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2418. Authority to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant

9 \* \* \*

10 F. \* \* \*

11 (2) **Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, the**  
12 **supervision requirements of a physical therapist assistant shall only be the**  
13 **following:**

14 **(a) It is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the**  
15 **number of physical therapist assistants he can supervise safely; however, in no**  
16 **case shall the number of individuals supervised by a physical therapist exceed**  
17 **five individuals, nor exceed the following limitations as to supervised personnel:**

18 **(i) No more than four physical therapist assistants or technicians or any**  
19 **combination thereof.**

20 **(ii) No more than two provisional licensees.**

21 **(iii) No more than five students.**

22 **(b) A supervising physical therapist is responsible for and shall**  
23 **participate in the patient's care.**

24 **(c) A supervising physical therapist shall be readily accessible by beeper**  
25 **or telephone and available to the patient by the next scheduled treatment**  
26 **session upon request of the patient or physical therapist assistant.**

27 **(d) A physical therapist assistant's duties shall not include interpretation or**

1 implementation of referrals or prescriptions, performance of evaluations, or the  
2 determination or major modification of treatment programs.

3 (e) A supervising physical therapist shall hold documented conferences  
4 with the physical therapist assistant regarding the patient. The physical  
5 therapist is responsible for determining the frequency of the conferences  
6 consistent with accepted standards of practice; however, such conferences shall  
7 occur at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs  
8 first.

9 (f) A supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess the patient  
10 at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs first.

11 (g) A supervising physical therapist shall treat the patient for his final  
12 treatment session when feasible and write a discharge summary.

13 \* \* \*

14 (4) Notwithstanding any rule or regulation to the contrary, for the  
15 purposes of supervision of physical therapist assistants by a physical therapist,  
16 a nursing home as defined by R.S. 40:2009.2(1) shall not be defined as a place  
17 of residence or as a home health setting. Any rule or regulation to the contrary  
18 shall be null and void. Supervision requirements for a physical therapist  
19 assistant performing treatments in a nursing home shall be consistent regardless  
20 of whether the patient is in a skilled or non-skilled nursing bed.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_